

The Fear of Man

Week 1-Intro

1. What do you think of when you hear the words “fear of man”?
2. Why is the fear of man a sin before God?
3. Are we all empty love tanks?
4. What does the Bible mean by “fear of man”?
5. Biblical examples of the fear of man:
6. Examples of the “fear of man”:

9. Is the “fear of man” a universal problem?

10. Working towards a biblical response:

11. What about us? Where do we see the “fear of man” in our lives? Work through this list of questions to help yourself see this better. If you cannot see any, ask your spouse or a close friend to help you discern where it shows up in your life.

- a. Have you ever struggled with peer pressure? How is this seen in adults?
- b. Are you over-committed? Do you find that it is hard to say no even when wisdom indicates that you should?
- c. Do you “need” something from your spouse or your friend? Do you “need” them to listen to you? To respect you?
- d. Do you ever feel as if you might be exposed as an imposter? The sense of being exposed, even among the successful, is an expression of the fear of man.
- e. Are you always second guessing decisions because of what others might think? Are you afraid of making mistakes that might make you look bad in other’s eyes?
- f. Do you get easily embarrassed?
- g. Do you ever lie, especially little white lies? Lying is usually used to make ourselves look better before other people.
- h. Are you jealous of other people?
- i. Do other people often make you angry or depressed? Are they making you crazy?
- j. Do you avoid people?
- k. Have all these descriptions missed the mark? When you compare yourself with other people, do you feel good about yourself? Perhaps the most dangerous form of the fear of man is the “successful” fear of man. Such people think they have made it. They have more than other people. They feel good about themselves. But their lives are still defined by other people rather than God.
- l. Have you ever been too timid to share your faith in Christ because others might think you are a fool?

Columbus Berean Church | The Fear of Man

November 1, 2020

Welch, Edward T. *When People Are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer-Pressure, Codependency and the Fear of Man* (P & R Publishing: New Jersey, 1997).